

2018 ANNUAL REPORT



We exist to guide people to experience life to its fullest, connect into meaningful relationships, and make a lasting impact.

Experience Life

On October 14, 2018, we launched our fourth Sunday worship experience, moving to new service times: 8:30AM, 10:00AM, 11:30AM, and 6:00PM.

LIFE CHANGE:

- We welcomed 1,074 first-time guests in 2018.
- 490 people professed faith in Jesus for the first time (301 adults, 6 teens, and 183 kids).
- 110 people went public with their faith through baptism (46 adults, 14 teens, and 50 kids).

SUCCESS STORIES:

Production Team | Taylor Miller, Lead Producer: The Production team has a few younger volunteers, but one in particular has really excelled in the niche ministry that is the Production Team. Generally, our team is thought of as only introverted button pushers, but many people on this team are interested in motivating, challenging, and growing younger volunteers. In a little over 8 months, we had one of our younger volunteers grow from the hopeless to the consistent. The cherry on top recently was when we were discussing why we needed to focus and be prepared for service and this volunteer spoke up and said, "We are doing this for Jesus!" Even though it was kind of in a joking manner, these kids are getting to see how different ministry can look. It isn't just preaching or singing or teaching; it can be pushing the next button on a keyboard 200 times a service.

Groups | Kat Fiore, Groups Director: Something we started last year was a "new believers" group. This group goes through Starting Point from Andy Stanley. From our Winter season last year, we had 2 people accept Christ as their Savior, and 3 people were baptized! Most of these people have gone on to get connected into other groups and have begun volunteering in some capacity.

E:KIDZ | Lesley DeBono, Children's Ministry Assistant: Late spring or early summer, we had a family that began attending the 6pm service who had a 3-year-old little boy named Elijah. Week after week Elijah would hide under the tables in the Explorers classroom and refuse to participate. He wasn't disruptive, so I would let him sit there and would frequently sit next to him during the video. This went on for about 6 or 7 weeks until one day when I was closing out the class and praying with each child, Elijah came over and sat by the other children. I asked Elijah if he would like to pray with me and he came over and I prayed over him. Since that day, Elijah has participated and is often one of the first children eager to pray at the end of class. God has done something amazing in that child as he has transformed from a shy and sometimes angry little boy to a joyful and eager participant in class.

Get Connected

Average Sunday attendance: 1,502 people per Sunday

Average small group attendance: 371 people per quarter

Volunteer participation: 576 people regularly served on a volunteer team

GROUPS MINISTRY: Small groups have seen a huge increase in participation in 2018 compared to 2017. In our 3rd quarter of 2018, we had 33% of our average adult attendance involved in groups. In the 3rd quarter of 2017, we only had 23%. We went from 230 unique individuals involved in a group to 365 unique individuals involved in a group. We praise God for that!

VOLUNTEERS: Volunteering has also seen some fantastic growth with 51% of our average adult attendance serving. That is 576 individuals who serve regularly throughout the church, making 4 services a reality each Sunday.

Make an Impact

\$191,360 was spent on Outreach to our community and the world.

2018 EVENTS

- NEW FOOD PANTRY - 2,496 food bags (50 lbs./bag) were distributed since opening in January.
- TIM TEBOW NIGHT-TO-SHINE SPECIAL NEEDS PROM - We opened up the church and served 138 prom participants by putting on an event fully equipped with dinner, dancing, a photo booth, and limo rides.
- GAS BUY-DOWN EVENT - In June we pumped 4,970 gallons of fuel for event guests, paying down the price of gasoline by \$1.00 per gallon. We also gave away \$5,000 in gift cards to various people as they waited in the fuel line and talked with our volunteers.
- BACK-TO-SCHOOL BASH EVENT - We distributed 1,726 backpacks filled with school supplies, 1,897 pairs of New Balance shoes, 25,000 lbs. of groceries, 2,600 hot-dogs, and 1,420 snow-cones—all in spite of the cold and rainy day the event was held on.
- FOOD BAG GIVEAWAY EVENT - We distributed 507 food bags during a December food bag event, giving away 48,796 lbs. of holiday food.

2018 MONTHLY SUPPORT PARTNERS

- Biblical Concepts in Counseling
- COMEA Shelter
- Element Benevolence
- Guerrero Family - Bolivia Missions
- Kelly Family - Hungary Missions
- Evangelical Church Western Conference

NEW PLAYCITY INDOOR PLAYGROUND: PlayCity opened to the Cheyenne community in October. Element Church spent just over \$110,000 to construct, launch, and maintain three months of operations in our volunteer-run PlayCity Indoor Playground. We received \$20,000 in additional business donations from Lennox Enterprises and Jessen Wheat Company. The playground is currently open during church office hours Monday-Thursday, 10am-4pm. Our

volunteer team also offers private birthday parties from 6-8pm every evening but Sunday. Since our October launch, our average weekly usage is 619 people per week, and Thanksgiving week saw 955 people come through the door.

COMPASSION INTERNATIONAL: In June we welcomed guest speaker and Compassion International President Emeritus Wess Stafford to speak on Compassion Sunday. Many new children were sponsored that day. Currently, Element attenders actively sponsor 261 children around the world for an annual cost of \$ 119,016. Talk about leading the way in generosity!

I HEART WYOMING INITIATIVE: In 2017 we launched the I Heart Wyoming Initiative, partnering with 14 churches around the state and giving away \$100,000 to do outreach events in those communities. In 2018, the I Heart Wyoming Initiative allowed us to partner with another 16 churches, granting \$90,654 towards outreach events in these communities:

Platte Valley Lutheran Church	Saratoga	Laramie Connections Church	Laramie
Summit Wesleyan Church	Buffalo	Orchard Church	Lander
New Life Church	Powell	Foundations for Nations Church	Riverton
Whitewater Church	Laramie	New Life Church	Laramie
Restoration Church	Casper	Harvest Church	Laramie
New Life Church	Gillette	River of Grace Church	Baggs
Casper Community Church	Casper	Casper Faith Assembly Church	Casper
Douglas Assembly of God Church	Douglas	RidgeLife Church	Jackson

SUMMER MISSIONS TRIP: John Wilson, our Children’s Pastor, and five other people traveled to the Wind River Indiana Reservation in central Wyoming for a week-long mission trip in June. They served about 50 kids through a three-day vacation Bible school put on by Foundations for Nations Church. They painted the walls and cabinets in the home of a Native family that had been fractured by divorce but whose marriage has been restored.

NEW ELEMENT MUSIC ALBUM: Element Music released their 3rd album in August, “Sinners & Saints.” Eight different songs from the S&S album and the Front Lines album were requested by a nationally syndicated station in Nashville. A couple more songs have also been added to Branson Gospel Radio in Branson, MO. God is using this music inside and outside the church.

Financial Overview

2018 Operating Budget

- Weekly Budget Need: \$33,079
- Annual Budget Need: \$1,720,108

2018 Actual Giving

- Weekly Income: \$ 35,717
- Annual Income: \$ 1,857,305

2019 Operating Budget

- Weekly Budget Need: \$ 33,605
- Annual Budget Need: \$ 1,747,460

2019 I Heart WY Budget
\$113,875

Emergency Savings Balance: \$ 375,000
Current Facility Debt: \$ 4,199,355